

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A workflow management system with continuous status management in a hospital or a hospital department, comprising:

a first apparatus adapted to detect fuzzy process definitions of a clinical workflow;

a second apparatus adapted to control activity stages according to said fuzzy process definitions in [[a]] said clinical workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and

means for evaluating the process definitions for each clinical process instance, the means for evaluating including a functional stage for initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to the second apparatus.

2. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes an interference machine.

3. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes an interference mechanism, arranged in an interference machine and in contact with a process instance manager, adapted to forward a signal corresponding to the respective instruction for activities of the activity stages to the process instance manager.

4. (Previously Presented) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the means for evaluating includes a control stage, supplied with an activity threshold by an evaluation stage for the process status and connected to the functional stage for carrying out the activities, and wherein

the functional stage is adapted to forward a signal corresponding to the respective state of the activities of the activity stages to the process instance manager.

5. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

6. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes causal networks.

7. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to operate on the basis of the laws of fuzzy logic.

8. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to operate on the basis of the laws of probability-based modeling.

9. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to operate on the basis of the laws of general weighting.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a workflow with continuous status management in a hospital or a hospital department through fuzzy process definitions, comprising:

detecting fuzzy process definitions of a clinical workflow;

controlling activity stages according to said fuzzy process definitions in [a] said clinical workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and

evaluating the process definitions for each clinical process instance, the evaluating including at least initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to be used in controlling the activity stages.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed using at least one of fuzzy rules and relations.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of probability-based modeling.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of control systems with priority weighting.

15. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the apparatuses includes an interference mechanism, arranged in an interference machine and in contact with a process instance manager, adapted to forward a signal corresponding to the respective instruction for activities of the activity stages to the process instance manager.

16. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to

activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

17. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

18. (Original) The workflow management system as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of the apparatuses is adapted to deliver instructions to activities of the activity stages with an associated continuous variable, the instructions being compared with an activity threshold for the control stage and providing corresponding "fuzzy" worklists for each activity of the activity stages, which reports its state to the at least one apparatus in the form of continuous variables.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

20. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of probability-based modeling.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of fuzzy logic.

23. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the continuous mapping operations are performed on the basis of the rules of probability-based modeling.

24. (Currently Amended) A workflow management system with continuous status management in a hospital or a hospital department, comprising:

means for detecting fuzzy process definitions of a clinical workflow;

means for controlling activity stages according to said fuzzy process definitions in [[a]] said clinical workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and

means for evaluating the process definitions for each process instance, the means for evaluating including a functional stage for initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to the means for controlling.

25. (Previously Presented) The workflow management system of claim 1, wherein the first and second apparatuses are separate and discrete apparatuses.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The workflow management system of claim 1,~~ A workflow management system with continuous status management in a hospital or a hospital department, comprising:

a first apparatus adapted to detect fuzzy process definitions of a clinical workflow;

a second apparatus adapted to control activity stages according to said fuzzy process definitions in said clinical workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions; and

means for evaluating the process definitions for each clinical process instance, the means for evaluating including a functional stage for initiating an activity associated with an activity stage and reporting the state of the activity to the second apparatus; wherein

the second apparatus is adapted to control activity stages in a workflow for the purpose of processing the process definitions independent of human intervention.

27. (New) A system for processing process definitions, the system comprising:

a process instance manager configured to process the process definitions, the process definitions controlling a workflow of a workflow management system, the process instance manager being further configured to send continuous instructions to activity stages in parallel, and configured to receive reports of states of respective activity stages; wherein

subsequent activities are ascertained and initiated based on the reported states.

28. (New) A workflow management system with continuous status management in a hospital or a hospital department, the system comprising:

a first apparatus configured to determine and stipulate process definitions having continuous instructions for activities and continuous states of the activities;

a second apparatus containing instructions for individual ones of the activities in a form of function equations for instruction volumes;

an interference mechanism in contact with a process instance manager, the interference mechanism being configured to deliver the instruction volumes to the activities of the activity stages; wherein

said instruction volumes are supplied to a control stage which is supplied with an activation threshold by an evaluation stage for the process status,

said control stage is connected to a functional stage of the activity of the activity stages, which carries out the instructions of the activity, and

said functional stage, in turn, reports the state of the activities to the process instance manager, which then re-ascertains the instruction volume, so that this instruction volume is continuously matched to the respective circumstances and to the respective status or process progress.